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# FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK, R.N.

## THE CONGRESS IN COLOGNE

OUR Cologne Congress was launched with a new prestige, that of official notice. The German Foreign Office honored us by sending the programme with a formal invitation to every country to send delegates. Uncle Sam responded by saying that he regretted not sending a delegate, but the hospitals and other centres would be informed. The Canadian Government replied similarly and asked for five more programmes to give to the provincial governors. France and England also said they would cause the Congress to be made known, but Holland did not say this—only acknowledged the invitation. Belgium sent two official government-paid delegates, the only country that did so; Japan sent a reply expressing interest and saying that, though the government could send no official delegate, the Red Cross society of Japan would send a Red Cross Sister. Australia transmitted the notes of the nurses' associations. Five of the German cities, Berlin, Rheydt, Dortmund, Brandenburg, and Zeitz, sent as delegates matrons from hospitals, and two county councils, Erbach and Teltow, did the same.

As before mentioned, the city of Cologne made us its guests, giving without any charge the most beautiful and richly decorated mediæval building, the Gürzenich, for our meetings, and a public school building, the Marzellan Gymnasium, for the exhibit. At the opening of the exhibit representatives of the city and of the women's committee welcomed us, and on Sunday evening we were greeted by a representative of the government, Herr Geheimrath Dr. Rusack, and again by Burgo-meister Krautwig, of Cologne. As also mentioned, the city of Cologne entertained us at a most charming garden-party in the public gardens, lowered our carfares to a nominal rate, and gave us free entrance to all public buildings. Open-handed hospitality that did indeed seem to come from the heart was our grateful meed. A feature peculiar to Germany, which made our Congress unique, was the glorious music which accompanied us everywhere, making one feel as though one were part of a triumphal procession.

The living pictures on Sunday evening were so rapturously received that they were repeated on Wednesday evening. They were a work of art, composed and perfected by artists, steeped in legend, poetry, and symbolism and set to music. Especially interesting historical figures in the last scene were Phebe of Cenchrea, the first deaconess, draped in soft white with gold circlet (Miss Beatrice Kent); Queen Philippa, in

royal robes and crown (Mrs. Manson, Mrs. Fenwick's sister-in-law, and a lineal descendant of Queen Philippa); An Augustinian Choir Sister (Miss Macvitie); St. Hildegard and St. Gertraudis (Miss Sophie von Ehrenwall and Sister Clara Weidemann), and Alyke von Tümppling (1380 A.D.), who was also represented by her descendant and namesake, one of the German nurses; Jeanne Mance, of Canada, beautifully represented (Miss Des Brisay), and other mediæval saints.

One of the most captivating of the modern figures was Sister Rahere (Miss Clara Lee), in her big apron and two-story shirred cap, copied to the life from the illustration in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Really, if those old nurses of seventy years ago were like that, one cannot blame the doctors for vehemently resisting their transmigration.

To the disappointment of all, the lamented death of the Emperor of Japan prevented the Japanese nurses from taking part in the pageant, as they had expected to. Regrettably, too, a native Indian nurse's dress sent from Bombay did not come in time to be worn.

In the midst of gayety and rejoicings there were thoughts sent to those whom we missed: Miss Baxter and Miss Turton and Miss Snell could not come from Italy, nor Miss Elston, Dr. Hamilton, or Mme. Kriegk from Bordeaux on account of illness. We missed Mme. Mannerheim, Miss Hibbard, and the Cubans, Miss Hubrecht, Miss Huxley, the Hon. Albinia Broderick, and Lady Hermione Blackwood. Even more we missed those who can never come back, for whom Sister Agnes, next day, spoke beautiful words of memorial, while the organ played a low chorale.

But some came who have never come before, and many others came back: Miss Meredith Hart, from Roberts College Infirmary, Constantinople; Miss J. Child, our honorary vice-president from South Africa; Sister Emmy Oser from Zurich, who was elected honorary vice-president from that country; Sister Emmy Lindhagen, President of the Swedish Nurses' Association; Mrs. Olga Lackstrom, editor of *Epione*; Miss Graham, secretary of the Scottish Matrons' Council; Miss Pearse, superintendent of school nurses in London, and many other old friends.

In addition to our honorary vice-president from Japan, Miss Take Hagiwara, there came another Red Cross Sister, Miss Yamamoto, and the head of a new training school in a new hospital, Miss Watatani, of the Mitsui Charity Hospital, which we shall tell more of later.

From Italy came three charming young Contessas, all volunteers under the Red Cross.

For the first time nurses came from Austria, and of these, too, we shall have more to say later, for they herald a new era (probably) in that backward land. There were six in all, young, intelligent, modern.

We even had two Russian nurses, Sister Emma Grabowski and Sister Dora Salomé, of St. Petersburg, also modern, attractive, and young. The colored nurses' national association of the United States sent two fraternal delegates, Miss Samuels and Mrs. Williams, and a great number of American and British alumnae and leagues sent fraternal delegates. Miss Alva Greenschlager, Chicago, and Miss Marie Lustnauer, of Louisville, Kentucky, read the German translations of the American papers, while Miss Kent and Miss Mollett, of England, wrote and read their papers in German.

At the banquet Mrs. Fenwick put forth one of her mind-flashes, which will, no doubt, prove to be as far-reaching and potent as her inspiration about international organization. It was a proposition to nurses to found a suitable memorial to Miss Nightingale of an educational character. Next month we shall say more of this.

The most epoch-making of the Congress papers was read by Dr. Hecker, of Strassburg, who is a government official, on overstrain and exhaustion of nurses. It will be printed as a pamphlet in several languages.

The trips to Kaiserswerth, Neuenahr, and Ahrweiler we must leave for another time, as we lack space now to do them justice.

Besides the resolutions of the Council, printed last month in our official news, the Congress as a whole passed three others; one, condemning the system of overwork which prematurely ruins the health of nurses in some continental countries, and calling upon hospital authorities to give it consideration; one affirming the proper position of the matron in training school and hospital, and one asking the International Council to use its influence to stimulate inquiries into the conditions of nursing and of nurses' lives in the affiliated countries.

Miss Hubrecht, though overworked and ill, has founded a new society in Holland on the lines of the one in England, to work solely for state registration. It takes the laity into membership as well as nurses and physicians. It is active and has already over three hundred members.

Miss Hubrecht has also, as president of Nosokomos, succeeded in opening headquarters for that society with its journal. Miss Dien Van Rijn is in charge. The office is at 13, Von Eeghen Str., Amsterdam. The Dutch nurses are keen suffragists, as they see no hope of improving their status until women vote.

The exhibit in the Marzellan Gymnasium was extremely interesting and was well attended, not only by Congress members, whose tickets admitted them free, but by a general public, paying about six cents admission fee.

Among the commercial exhibits, one of the most taking was that of the Utermöhlen surgical supply company of Holland, which puts up

enormous quantities of Red Cross supplies, making it a science to compress much into little. This firm invented the sterile pad and bandage which is so folded that by the soldier's taking hold of the two ends and stretching them a clean, fresh surface is applied to the wound. This Holland factory is a model. Its employees, largely women and girls, work only seven hours a day, that being considered enough for such exacting work which suffers if not perfectly done. Might not Holland and Germany take a lesson here as to nursing? Patients are surely as exacting as bandages.

There were many models of nurses' uniforms, among them "Reform Dress."

The German and British nurses had practically all the professional exhibits. Both were extensive and admirable, costing much thought and preparation. The Swedish and Danish nurses, however, sent some uniforms and water-color sketches of hospital nurses which were very attractive.

The British nurses showed appliances and nursing devices, dolls in uniform, photographs, and posters used in popular health lectures. Canada sent a full set of charts showing the dental work in public school inspection.

The German nurses showed the work of nurses as pathological laboratory assistants and instructors; charts and statistics showing morbidity and mortality among nurses; photographs, and literature. All the nursing magazines were on hand, and a set of illustrations from the "History of Nursing."

Of great interest was the exhibit of the nursing work of German religious orders, which had been shown also at Dresden. A large chart showed sixty-four orders of Catholic nuns doing nursing as well as other work, in all, 26,000, in 1910. Many are Franciscans, a very hard-working, practical, efficient order. Photographs of their nursing showed that they had three kinds of garb, the usual nun's dress for general purposes, a ward uniform for hospitals, mostly white, and an operating-room dress entirely of white. The Franciscans have war medals from 1864, 1870, and the Boer War. There were many fine photographs of new and well-equipped hospitals under the care of nuns, and some splendid figures of Mother Superiors, strong, able, forceful, and imposing. There was also a chart showing eight Catholic societies for training secular nurses, with, in 1910, 822 nurses. There is probably a great field for the German Catholic orders in opening secular schools for nurses, and we may believe that from this point of view a paper written for the Congress by the Sisters of Mercy in Chicago describing their training school methods, and which will be translated into German, may be of epoch-making importance.